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ERIC D. FINGERHUT, CHANCELLOR

To: College and University Presidents
From: Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor
Date: April 18, 2007
Subject: Safety on Campuses

In light of Monday's tragic events at Virginia Tech, Governor Strickland and I believe that it is important for us to review our safety plans and make certain that we are utilizing best practices in this important area. We also want to make certain that we have offered the maximum support possible from the state government and that such potential support is thoroughly coordinated with local efforts.

We recognize that college and university presidents, together with their boards of trustees, are legally responsible for campus public safety operations and that you have worked diligently to ensure the best environment for students, faculty, and staff—efforts that have doubtless redoubled since Monday's tragedy. This effort is meant to augment and assist, not to supplant, these primary legal responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Governor and I are asking every public college and university, as well as those independent institutions who wish to participate, to designate a representative to a Task Force on Campus Security, which I will chair.

The work of the Task Force will evolve according to need, but we expect the conversation to begin with the following topics:

- 1) Managing responses to violent events, including how to ensure a robust internal communications infrastructure together with an effective liaison strategy to state and local law enforcement.
- 2) The role of campus administrators, including public safety officers, in responding to reports of implied or implicit, as well as explicit, threats of violence.

To achieve the greatest efficiency, we will hold as many Task Force meetings as possible via videoconference. The initial meeting date will be before the end of this month. To that end, we ask that you send the names of your representatives to Executive Secretary to the Chancellor, regents@regents.state.oh.us, no later than April 23. Thank you for your assistance. I very much welcome your advice on this important effort.